

MINUTES OF THE
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
REGIONAL BICYCLE TASK FORCE AND
PEDESTRIAN WORKING GROUP

Tuesday, February 22, 2000
MAG Office Building, Suite 200 - Saguaro Room
302 North First Avenue, Phoenix

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Patrick McDermott, Chandler, Chair,
Regional Bicycle Task Force
*Cynthia Seelhammer, Queen Creek, Chair,
Pedestrian Working Group
Michael Eagan, American Society of Landscape
Architects
Bruce Meyers, Arizona Department of
Administration
*Mark Mansfield, ADOT
Mickey Ohland, Chandler
Tami Ryall, Gilbert
Debbie Burdette, Glendale
Richard Janke, Glendale

*Larry Martinez, Goodyear
*Mike Cartsonis, Litchfield Park
Reed Kempton, Maricopa County
Steve Hancock, Mesa
Chris Jacques, Peoria
*Lorry Kuiper, Phoenix Planning Department
Mark Melnychenko, Phoenix Transit
Kristina Fields for John Siefert, Phoenix
Maureen Mageau-DeCindis, RPTA
Amy MacAulay, Scottsdale
Jorie Bresnahan, Scottsdale
Eric Iwersen, Tempe

*Members neither present nor represented by proxy.

OTHERS PRESENT

Mike Normand, Chandler
Dawn Coomer, MAG
Scott Nodes, Peoria

Phil Bloom, Peoria
Michelle Green, RBF
Dennis Wells, RBF

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Pat McDermott at 1:34 p.m.

2. Approval of the November 16, 1999 Meeting Minutes of the Regional Bicycle Task Force

Steve Hancock moved to approve the Regional Bicycle Task Force minutes from the November 16, 1999 meeting. Maureen Mageau-DeCindis seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

3. Approval of the November 10, 1999 Meeting Minutes of the Pedestrian Working Group

Eric Iwersen moved to approve the Pedestrian Working Group minutes from the November 10, 1999 meeting. Chris Jacques seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

4. Call to the Audience

No members of the audience wished to address the Task Force or Working Group.

5. Staff Report

Dawn Coomer distributed a memorandum to the Task Force and Working Group which summarized various items of interest. She mentioned that the MAG region fared well during the Round VII enhancement funds process and that eight projects had received funding. She distributed a brochure for the "Creating an Off-Street Path System in an Urban Environment" conference on April 25 and 26, 2000. She mentioned that two public meetings for the West Valley Multi-Modal Transportation Corridor had been scheduled for March 7 and March 9 at two West Valley locations. In addition, as part of the MAG transportation public involvement program, a transportation open house would be held at Central Station on February 24, 2000 and a joint agency public hearing on March 2, 2000. Finally, information on the Regional Off-Street System Plan (ROSS) plan had been placed on the web site. Members were encouraged to visit the site and provide their comments to MAG staff.

6. Member Agency Report

Task Force and Working Group members were asked to provide an update of bicycle planning activity in their agencies. Maureen Mageau-DeCindis encouraged everyone to register for the Pedestrian Conference on April 25 and 26, and provided an overview of Valley Bike Week activities. Valley Bike Week will be held from April 8 to April 16th. Events include Bike to BOB (Bank One Ballpark), bike-to-work days sponsored by several cities, bike rodeos and a swap meet sponsored by a bicycling organization. She encouraged for all cities to have events as part of Valley Bike Week, and to call her for additional information.

Mark Melnychenko mentioned that RPTA is working on pedestrian design guidelines. A case study was done in Tempe along University Drive, and a design charette in the area was attended by 125 people. The next workshop will focus on an area in Phoenix near Broadway and Central. The goal of the project is to develop a model ordinance to encourage consideration of pedestrian travel in site planning and design. Mark concluded by saying that all member cities have been involved in the process of creating the guidelines.

Eric Iwersen mentioned that the Tempe 5th Street project, which was designed using the Pedestrian Design Assistance Program, is being bid for construction. The project should be completed in February, 2001.

Richard (Dick) Janke introduced Debbie Burdette, who would be replacing Susan Bookspan at the City of Glendale and serve as Glendale's representative on the Task Force. Dick added that Susan is now working for Phoenix Children's Hospital coordinating and implementing bicycle education programs and activities.

Amy MacAulay noted that Scottsdale would be completing an additional mile of pathway between Pima and Hayden, and that this pathway connects two existing paths.

Pat McDermott asked Mark when the pedestrian standards would be completed, and Mark responded that a draft would be done in the Fall. Pat suggested that the Task Force and Working Group be kept informed of the results of this project.

7. Representation on the Transportation Review Committee

Pat McDermott provided an overview of this issue, noting the importance of having representatives at the Transportation Review Committee (TRC) meetings. Having ex-officio representation on the TRC allows consideration of bicycle and pedestrian concerns in selecting projects for funding and other planning issues. Reed Kempton volunteered to attend the TRC representing the Working Group, and Eric Iwersen volunteered to represent the Task Force. Maureen Mageau-DeCindis added that she could serve as an alternate representative for the Working Group and Task Force if the designated representatives were unable to attend the TRC meetings. Pat thanked the volunteers for their contribution.

8. Regional Off-Street System (ROSS) Plan

Dennis Wells presented some background information on the ROSS plan. He concluded by asking the Task Force and Working Group for discussion about a vision statement, goals and objectives.

Maureen Mageau-DeCindis began the discussion by saying a basic issue is the crossing of arterials when using pathways. She added that all potential routes for off-street travel should be identified on a map, and that this map is the most important product of the plan. Eric Iwersen noted that the Pedestrian Design Assistance Program had funded a mid-block crossing report which should be considered in the ROSS plan. Steve Hancock added that the system should be designed for short local trips by bicycling or walking. He added that the funding is for transportation, and so the transportation purpose of the trip should be clear. He said that crossing arterials may not be a large issue, since most destinations are on arterials.

Pat McDermott said that the final document should be user friendly and appropriate for marketing purposes. He noted that implementation and support are key. There should be two documents: a longer document for the engineers and a shorter document for non-technical persons. Mike Normand added that a map of existing bike facilities should be developed which could be distributed to bicyclists and citizens. Several Task Force members mentioned that the Regional Bicycle Map would be updated later

this year, following the development of the ROSS plan. Funding for updating the Regional Bicycle Map was included as a funding request for federal funds for FY 2001, and was approved by the TRC.

Maureen said that it would also be important to identify corridors which are currently used primarily for recreation but could be used for transportation. The Task Force and Working Group discussed the scale of corridors to be considered, and agreed that only corridors which had potential for transportation should be included in the ROSS plan. Mark Melnychenko noted that all planning being currently done by the cities should be included in the plan. Eric Iwersen asked Dawn Coomer if the facilities in the plan would be paved or unpaved. Dawn responded that the facilities could be either paved or unpaved depending on the users, amount of travel on the pathway, surrounding land uses and other criteria to be developed in later stages of the planning process. She emphasized that the most important concern would be linking origins and destinations, which is the essence of transportation.

Jorie Bresnahan suggested that the study identify gaps in the existing system, and that connectivity should be an important goal. Steve said that the plan should focus on users of the system. Most people who bicycle ride short distances of less than five miles. The plan should focus on the needs of this group, which is the predominant group that may be persuaded to try bicycling or walking for local trips. Jorie added that the plan should recommend complementary facilities, such as bike and ride areas or other amenities. Eric agreed that intermodal connections were essential to consider, especially connections to transit.

The Working Group and Task Force were then asked by the consultant team to prioritize issues identified at the first Regional Trails Forum. After distribution of issues prioritization forms and some explanation, the members were given time to prioritize issues. After much discussion on the merits of the exercise, members of the committees decided not to prioritize issues. There was a general consensus that the issues raised may or may not actually be related to the goals and objectives of the plan. The committees asked for the consultant team to develop a draft vision statement, goals and objectives for the next meeting. The Task Force and Working Group agreed that it would be easier to respond to draft ideas rather than creating these components of the plan as a group.

The Task Force and Working Group continued to discuss various issues. Steve said that funding mechanisms needed to be described in the plan. A map is needed to show potential alignments. Reed Kempton said that existing, planned and potential corridors and facilities should be considered. Dick Janke suggested using Flood Control District as a data resource to identify possible corridors. Eric suggested that the difference between on-street and off-street facilities should be noted on any map produced for the plan. He suggested considering ADOT right-of-way and frontage roads as possible corridors. Maureen added that the CAP should be included. Jorie mentioned that the Coalition of Arizona Bicyclists produces a map of "popular routes" and that these routes should also be considered.

Reed Kempton suggested using the project understanding listed in the meeting summary from the January Regional Trails Forum as a draft vision statement. After some discussion, the committees agreed.

9. Next Meeting

The Pedestrian Working Group and Regional Bicycle Task Force will be meeting on March 21, 2000 from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. A Regional Trails Forum has been scheduled to follow the Task Force and Working Group meeting, and will be held from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:04 p.m.